

"IF I WERE MAYOR, I WOULD..."



It's great to accomplish things on our own. It can be a sign of independence and it shows problem solving skills. But it's also important that you're able to work within a team. Everybody is good at something and when you combine a variety of talents together, the sky's the limit because no one can do it all by themselves.

People decide to run for public office for a lot of different reasons, but nearly all of them run because they want to play a positive part in their community. Once on a council or commission, elected officials learn quickly that they must work together to do what's best for their municipality. Services offered by a town like fixing potholes, running a police department, trash pick-up service, or providing recreational activities are important. But what happens when one person feels that one issue is more important than another? If you must solve many issues, at once, how does it get done if people disagree?

Look around your city/town/community. Is there an important issue in your community that needs to be solved?

CONTEST RULES

- The contest is open to all Maryland students enrolled in the 4th grade during the 2018-2019 school year.
- All essays must begin with the opening line: "If I Were Mayor, I Would..."
- Essays may not exceed 275 words.
- Only one essay may be submitted per student.
- Essays will be judged by contest sponsors in the following areas: essay relation to contest topic; displayed knowledge about municipal government and the role of a mayor; creativity; and proper use of grammar.
- Students must include their first and last names, school and teacher's name at the top of their essays.
- Essays must be received no later than March 30, 2019
- Winners will be notified by late April. Runners up will be notified late May. Check mdmunicipal.org for a full list of finalists (winning student) and semi-finalists anytime late April.

ESSAY CONTEST

**THEME: TOGETHER
WE CAN**

IF YOU WERE MAYOR...

1. What is the issue and how would you propose to solve it?
2. How would you get the community and your fellow officials on board to help?
3. Offer a suggestion that would help people to work better together.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

School: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

County: _____

Name of Sponsoring Teacher: _____

Tel: () _____ Email: _____

Total number of essays submitted: _____

All entry information is mandatory.



MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) founded in 1936, represents the 157 incorporated cities and towns in Maryland and several taxing districts throughout the state. A voluntary, nonprofit, nonpartisan association controlled and maintained by city and town governments, MML works to strengthen the role and capacity of municipal government through research, legislation, technical assistance, training, and the dissemination of information to its members.

CONTEST SPONSORS

THE MARYLAND MAYORS ASSOCIATION
CHESAPEAKE EMPLOYERS INSURANCE
COMPANY



**"IF I
WERE
MAYOR,
I WOULD..."**

TEACHERS INSTRUCTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We are pleased that your students are participating in the essay contest. Each year we receive thousands of entries. Unfortunately, some essays are disqualified because the instructions or rules aren't followed. It's important that you follow the instructions so that your essays will not be disqualified.

- Please number each completed essay at the top and enter the total number of essays on the entry form.
- You may use one form for any number of entries from your class.
- Each teacher submitting essays must provide a completed entry form. No group forms, please!
- Sometime during the month of May, the eleven regional winners along with their parents and teacher will be recognized during an awards ceremony in Annapolis.
- Only regional winners are notified directly. Four semi-finalists per region will receive a participation certificate.

YOU MUST MAIL YOUR ENTRIES DIRECTLY TO:

MAYORS' CONTEST
Maryland Municipal League
1212 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Note: To increase your students' chances of winning, use the Maryland Municipal Government Study Guide, which can be downloaded by hovering over the "Engagement" tab and clicking Strengthening Your Essay Entry at mdmunicipal.org.

(This contest is the sole initiative of the Maryland Municipal League and is not affiliated with any County Public School System in Maryland)

Questions? Call 800-492-7121 or email sharone@mdmunicipal.org

"Make summer
break longer!"

"Clean up the trash
in our parks!"

"Make our
playgrounds safe
for everyone!"